

The Human Rights Law Centre, a leading national human rights advocacy organisation, seeks a Lawyer work with us in Sydney on democratic freedoms. This is a new position.

About the Human Rights Law Centre

The Human Rights Law Centre is a leading national organisation that protects and promotes human rights in Australia and in Australian activities overseas using a strategic combination of legal action, advocacy, research, education and UN engagement. The HRLC works in coalition with key partners, including community organisations, law firms and barristers, academics and experts, and international and domestic human rights organisations. The HRLC has offices in Melbourne and Sydney.

About the role

A new and exciting opportunity has arisen for a lawyer to work with us on democratic rights and freedoms. This position will report to the Director of Legal Advocacy and play a vital role in contributing to all aspects of the work. While the position will focus primarily on the Centre's democratic rights work, it will also involve some work in other areas.

The HRLC's democratic freedoms work focuses on:

- Promoting free assembly rights and challenging state anti-protest laws.
- Protecting the ability of civil society organisations to speak out and engage in public debate.
- Defending the rule of law and the institutions that protect and promote human rights in Australia.
- Promoting press freedom and whistleblower protections.

The work is both responsive and agenda-setting, working closely with Australian civil society to identify and address systemic issues. It builds on our Safeguarding Democracy report which was launched in 2016.

We are seeking a highly motivated, dynamic and collaborative individual. This position is aimed at lawyers with more than 2 years post-admission legal practical experience. This position will be based in Sydney.

Key Responsibilities

Reporting to the Director of Legal Advocacy, the Lawyer will:

- undertake and support legal action, working with pro bono partners, to protect and promote democratic freedoms;
- undertake and support advocacy, research, education and UN engagement to protect and promote democratic freedoms;
- perform the above duties in relation to other areas of the HRLC's work;
- contribute to implementing, refining and evaluating the HRLC's overall strategic plan and in particular the democratic freedoms strategic plan;
- develop strong partnerships with the HRLC's key stakeholders and in particular civil society partners relevant to the HRLC's democratic freedoms work;
- coordinate the sourcing and publication of case summaries for the HRLC's monthly bulletin Rights Agenda;
- assist with the induction and supervision of legal and paralegal volunteers and interns;

- assist with responses to inquiries for legal assistance across a range of legal areas;
- assist with seminars, events and fundraising; and
- undertake administrative tasks as required in a small team.

Key selection criteria

Essential

- admitted to practice as a lawyer in Australia and at least two years post-admission legal practice experience;
- strong commitment to and knowledge of human rights law and principles;
- excellent oral and written communication skills;
- strong interpersonal skills and the ability to develop relationships of trust and confidence with diverse stakeholders, including civil society partners, pro bono lawyers, politicians, public servants, academics, donors and the media;
- a high degree of professionalism and strong attention to detail;
- ability to work efficiently and effectively under pressure; and
- ability to work effectively in a small, dynamic and motivated team.

Desirable

- litigation experience;
- experience in writing reports or submissions; and
- experience working on democratic freedoms, in international human rights law or working in a public interest, social justice or human rights organisation.

Terms and Conditions

- The salary will be up to \$75,000 per annum plus 9.5% superannuation, depending on qualifications, experience and other relevant considerations.
- We are ideally looking for a full time position but will consider 0.8 or 0.9 EFT.
- The HRLC has charity tax status enabling us to offer staff generous salary packaging options including meals and entertainment packaging. The tax savings for staff who take full advantage of salary packaging options significantly increases their take home pay.
- The HRLC offers flexible working arrangements, five weeks annual leave, opportunities for professional development, and a workplace culture that is professional, dedicated, collaborative and dynamic.
- The position will be based in Sydney.
- The position will involve domestic travel and work outside normal business hours. It may also involve international travel.
- The position will be ongoing.

Applications

Applications should be sent by email to Emily Howie at emily.howie@hrlc.org.au and should comprise:

- a cover letter (maximum 1 page);
- a document addressing the selection criteria (maximum 2 pages); and

- your resume.

Please make your application a single PDF document with your name in the document title.

The closing date for applications is **Friday 15 September 2017**.

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted by telephone. Interviews will most likely be conducted between 25 and 27 September 2017.

Further Information

For further information about the Human Rights Law Centre, see www.hrlc.org.au.

For further information about this position, contact Emily Howie on (02) 8599 2110.